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REMARKS

Applicants have received and reviewed the Final Office Action mailed May 20, 2003. Claims 11, 12 and 22-29 are currently pending in the application. Claims 11, 12 and 22 are allowed. Claims 1-9, 16-21, and 23-29 stand rejected. Claims 1-10 and 13-21 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 23-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as their invention, but the Office indicated these claims would be allowable if the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, issues were corrected. Claims 23-29 are amended herein as suggested. All claim amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1-9 and 16-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph (Office Action of May 20, 2003, p. 2-3). Applicants have cancelled claims 1-9 and 16-21 thus mooting the rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 2, 4-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as assertedly "being anticipated by Croce." (Office Action, p. 5). Claims 2, 4-8 have been cancelled thus mooting the rejection.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 23-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as assertedly being indefinite (Office Action, p. 7). Applicants have amended claims 23-29 to recite, in part, "The method according to claim . . .," and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENTS

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments set forth herein. Claims 1-10 and 13-21 are hereby canceled. The amendments to claims 23-29 adopt the Examiner's

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suggestions. The amendments place the claims in condition for allowance. Should the Office disagree that the claims, as amended, define allowable subject matter, entry of the present amendments is nevertheless respectfully solicited inasmuch as they place the claims in better condition for consideration on appeal.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the application should be in condition for allowance. If issues remain after consideration of the foregoing, the Office is kindly invited to contact applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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